

# Ridgeline Community Organization (RCO) Parent Council Meeting October 27, 2009 Approved Meeting Minutes

## Housekeeping

The next meeting was rescheduled from Nov. 24th to Dec. 1.

## Fundraising Policy

Emily Naylor reviewed the current policy (see attached). It is clear that fundraising is not to involve selling of items from door-to-door, and competition among students is discouraged. Questions arose as more specific ideas were generated. The New Funds Committee will take it upon themselves to explore this policy and fine-tune as needed as new ideas are brought forward.

Discussion also involved new fundraising ideas. Tiffany Petry suggested a pancake breakfast she could organize. She joined the New Funds Committee who will meet next week and hopefully agree to make this happen in 2009/10. Also recommended were events that involve the children and their families – a concert, talent show, other...to be further discussed among the New Funds Committee.

## DDD Results to Date: Lisa Namyet

The following results of the Direct Donation Drive were discussed. Concern was raised about participation – with less than 2 weeks left, how can we motivate ALL to participate? Ideas involved more volunteers at pick-up, developing posters with a reading of results on a thermometer, another flyer to go home with kids in backpacks, a grand prize of sorts; more evaluation to happen at next month's meeting.

Results	# donations	% participation*	\$ Raised	Total \$	Other
Kickoff 10/10	19	11 %	\$2,284.44	\$2,284.44	80 persons attended
10/13-10/19	18	11 %	\$2,673.	\$4,957.44	
10/21	37 total	22 %	\$1,185	\$6,142.44^	
10/27	44 total	26 %	\$ 531.75	\$6,674.19	

\*# donations / 169 families = participation rate

^\$3,630 collected; \$2,512 pledged; one monthly-giving.

## Next Steps for Event Teams and Committees

The teams and committees met with starting worksheets to begin making goals happen and documenting plans for future reference. Contact information was shared and next steps agreed upon e.g. how to recruit more volunteers or when next to meet. Updates will occur at future RCO meetings.

## Administration Report: Trish DeJohn

### Smoking at Dunn campus

Trish DeJohn reviewed the laws and regulations about smoking on school campuses. 4J Administration has been consulted about smoking by Opportunity Center (OC) students on the Dunn campus. There is presently an agreement with the OC that smoking will only be allowed at the gravel driveway on 35<sup>th</sup>, about 500 feet below Ridgeline's arrival/dismissal area. Discussion is still underway.

## **Site Council Report: Jen Hornsby**

The Site Council reported that Ridgeline will apply for a 10-year charter renewal. There may be a need to survey families as part of the rechartering process.

## **Volunteer Report: Cynthia Friedman**

Cynthia Friedman discussed the upcoming fundraising events:

- November 20 4-8 PM : Fundraiser at Barnes & Noble. Wait to buy books until then. If family members around the country want to participate, they can purchase on that day and give the Ridgeline number to receive credit for our school.
- Dec. 12 & 13: Holiday Market -- anyone can make and price crafts. No food, please.
- Stone Soup event moved to Tues. Dec 15 at Willard. More info to come.

## **Teacher Presentation: Bonnie Niemann**

Bonnie Niemann presented on "A teacher's personal view of the union".

### **RCO Task List**

Due to time pressures, Jen Hornsby graciously agreed to move her presentation of "Who the Site Council is and what they do" to the beginning of the next meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:32 pm with some staying for additional discussion.

## Fundraising Policy (as revised March 10, 2004)

*Ridgeline fundraisers exist to:*

1. ...enhance school funding in ways that are consistent with the Montessori philosophy, thus providing a rich and well-rounded learning experience for students. (Because Ridgeline receives less than 80% of the state funding that non-charter schools receive, we look to fundraising to bridge the gap.)
2. ...demonstrate to students that their parents care enough about the quality of their education to work for, or contribute to, the school.
3. ...build community.
4. ...raise the visibility of the school and enhance its public image.

*Ridgeline establishes fundraising traditions by repeating successful events and techniques. Examples are:*

1. The Direction Donation Drive, the primary fundraising event of each year, held in October. The proceeds of this drive are the major contributor to the fundraising line item in our annual budget. We rely upon the DDD to raise the bulk of the year's fundraising goal early in the year, so as to assure adequate funds for specialties such as art, music, drama, PE, and Spanish throughout the year.
2. Dr. Stan's Science Circus, which occurs if/when Stan Micklavzina schedules it. (Another science-related event could replace it, if need be, such as an OMSI-sponsored event.)
3. Book Fair, which occurs just before the winter holidays.
4. A music-related event in the January-to-March timeframe, perhaps patterned after Sweet Music Showcase. (Such an event is dependent upon parent interest and talent, and hasn't occurred since the 2001-2002 school year.)
5. Rummage Sale, scheduled in the March-to-May timeframe.
6. E-scrip. Ridgeline encourages parents to register their credit cards and participate in this program, which provides a small percentage of contribution on each credit-card purchase made.
7. Affinity programs at merchants such as Target, Staples, Albertson's, etc.
8. Collection of redeemable items such as printer cartridges and soup labels.

Other events and techniques may be scheduled or introduced, but they must be developed through the Parent Council, approved by the Principal, and authorized by the Board of Directors. The Principal may, in certain circumstances, require Site Council involvement as well.

*These guidelines should be considered when developing or scheduling fundraisers:*

1. Ridgeline does not involve students in selling merchandise for the school's benefit, especially not door-to-door. Students are not to be asked to involve themselves in selling or collecting money unless it is part of a student-, class-, or school-sponsored service project (and therefore not considered a fundraiser governed by this policy).
2. Approved fundraisers must be non-competitive in nature and be structured to avoid unduly impacting family time.
3. Ridgeline will not conduct fundraisers in ways that cause families to feel pressure to buy merchandise they may not want or need. However, families may be collectively urged to contribute to the Direct Donation Drive, or to give assistance to a labor-intensive fundraiser such as the Rummage Sale.
4. Ridgeline strives to devote its fundraising energies to projects and goals that benefit the school as a whole, not just individual classes or activities. If exceptions are to be made, the matter must be discussed and approved at a Parent Council meeting, and receive final approval from the Principal.
5. If the Parent Council wishes to retain for its own projects any portion of funds raised, it must bring the matter to the Board of Directors for approval well no less than three months in advance of the planned expenditure. The Board will consider the request in light of budget conditions and appropriateness.
6. Ridgeline avoids involvement in corporate-sponsored fundraisers that net the school only a small percentage of funds raised.
7. All fundraising literature must be approved by the Principal prior to distribution.